

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 171419  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
INFO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

S E C R E T STATE 171419

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: DEFERRAL OF MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA

REFS: STATE 167988; B) STATE 147850; C) PARIS 20972

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS AT  
APPROPRIATE LEVEL ON US DECISION TO DEFER VISIT OF A US  
MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA AT THIS TIME (REF A).  
YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING WITH  
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SOMALI GOVERNMENT POSSIBILITY OF A SURVEY TEAM VISIT IN  
MID-JULY, THOUGH WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED FROM SOMALIS  
FINAL CONFIRMATION THAT THIS TIMING WAS ACCEPTABLE TO  
THEM. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN  
EXPLAINING US DECISION:

-- OUR WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATION-

SHIP WITH SOMALIA HAS BEEN PREDICATED ON ASSURANCES FROM SIAD THAT SOMALIA WAS PREPARED TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

-- WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORTS THAT A MECHANISM FOR MAINTAINING LIAISON BETWEEN THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT AND THE OGADENI INSURGENTS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS. WHILE SUCH A MECHANISM COULD CONCEIVABLY BE USED TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT ON THE INSURGENTS, THE PERIOD SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT HAS WITNESSED AN ESCALATION OF INSURGENT ATTACKS. THIS FACT, TOGETHER WITH OTHER INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE TO US, CASTS SERIOUS DOUBTS ON THE VALUE OF SIAD'S ASSURANCES. WE ARE REMINDED OF THE FACT THAT DURING THE RECENT OGADEN WAR SIAD MAINTAINED THAT THERE WERE NO REGULAR SOMALI UNITS INSIDE THE OGADEN LONG AFTER WE KNEW FOR A FACT THAT THERE WERE.

-- FOR US TO PROCEED WITH A MILITARY SURVEY JUST AT THIS TIME OF ESCALATED VIOLENCE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS REWARDING THAT VIOLENCE AND ENCOURAGING FUTURE VIOLENCE.

-- WE HAVE, ACCORDINGLY, DECIDED TO DELAY SENDING THE TEAM FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN THE HOPE THAT A MORE PROPITIOUS MOMENT WILL PRESENT ITSELF FOR THE TEAM TO PROCEED.

-- WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER, CANCELLED THE SURVEY TEAM SINCE  
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WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE IMPROVING WESTERN POSITION IN SOMALIA AND ALSO ITS POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO SIAD AND OTHERS IN SOMALIA WHO PREFER TIES WITH THE WEST TO AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE SOVIETS.

-- WE WILL BE PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH THE SURVEY TEAM WHEN DOING SO CAN BE SEEN AS CONTRIBUTING TO REGIONAL STABILITY RATHER THAN VIOLENCE.

2. FOR PARIS: PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE QUAI PRIOR TO SIAD VISIT JULY 11 (PER REFTEL C).

3. INFO ADDRESSEES SHOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME TO DISCUSS US DECISION TO DEFER SURVEY TEAM WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS/ORGANIZATIONS. IF ASKED RE STATUS OF TEAM, YOU SHOULD RESPOND THAT QUESTION OF SURVEY TEAM REMAINS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT, BUT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHEN TEAM MIGHT VISIT SOMALIA. IF ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN REPORTS OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN OGADEN AND APPARENT DELAY IN DESPATCH OF SURVEY TEAM, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE DO

VIEW RENEWED ESCALATION OF FIGHTING WITH CONCERN, AND THAT USG POSITION HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THAT RESTRAINT IS CALLED FOR BY ALL SIDES IN OGADEN SITUATION IN ORDER TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT FINDING LASTING SOLUTIONS TO UNDERLYING PROBLEMS.

4. ALL ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT ANY APPROACHES AND/OR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ITINERARY, SURVEYS, MILITARY VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** DEFERRAL OF MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, SO, US  
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